

Report on the Department's Readiness to Implement System Reform

Report Required by December 1, 2001 in Accordance with Subdivision 6 of Section 3(a) Of House Bill 381

Secretary Carmen Hooker Buell and the Department of Health and Human Services are prepared to move forward with the implementation of the requirements of House Bill 381, along with the provisions set forth in the State Plan for mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services, to accomplish the goals of reforming and improving North Carolina's care delivery system.

The Secretary and Department are committed to making any necessary changes in departmental or divisional structure, along with any necessary changes in staffing or leadership, to successfully implement the State Plan and system reform and to maximize the benefit from available resources. Richard J. Visingardi has been selected to become director of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services effective February, 2002. As Division director, Dr. Visingardi's background and experience will be instrumental in the successful implementation of the reform plan. Dr. Visingardi will coordinate his efforts with the directors of the Division of Medical Assistance and other divisions to help guarantee successful reform of the system.

The Secretary has adopted a timeline for the implementation of the State Plan and system reform. The divisions and Department are organizing their efforts to meet that implementation **timeline**.